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DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND
STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2003

HEARINGS

BEFORE A

SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE
JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES

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PART 9

TESTIMONY OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND OTHER
INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

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DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2003

TESTIMONY OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND OTHER INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS AND
ORGANIZATIONS

Wednesday, April 10, 2002.

WITNESS

HON. WES WATKINS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Mr. Wolf. Welcome to the committee, and I appreciate your good service. And I do appreciate the impact that you have had here and also the impact you have had on my life. So go ahead and begin.

Mr. Watkins. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And let me say if there is anything along the way that I have helped on, it has been a labor of love. I appreciate you and your leadership and that of the committee; and also the staff, I would like for all of them to know.

My commitment to public life has been to try to help rural economies, the depressed area where I was born and raised, and families have had to leave three different times for California to find jobs. I was raised in an area that has been really in a depressed situation since the Great Depression. One of the things I have had to do is to--I have had to try to lift and to change the culture, change the attitude; and as a result, we have initiated a lot of things, and we are trying to help build private sector jobs.

One of those things has been helping small businesses, industries, trying to be able to work with ideas and new products and to be able to start to help those businesses, small businesses, entering the international marketplace. So one request I have is for \$400,000 for Rural Enterprises, which is very comprehensive, probably one of a kind in this country, which helps with interfacing, helps with technology, helps with incubation, but also with trade.

And so, as a result, we have begun to have some differences in letting these small businesses and industries expand their marketplaces. So that is one request of about \$400,000.

Then the Center for International Trade Development, which does a lot more of the training and seminars, I have found in a survey that a lot of small businesses would like to do some exporting and trading, but they do not know how. We stop to reflect on that, and we can realize that many of them become intimidated by either the language or the various things you have to go through with those countries and trying to meet the needs, even though we have products and commodities that could be utilized in those countries. So we are trying to develop a greater understanding.

So I am working with not only Rural Enterprises in the first request, but with Oklahoma State University and the Center of International Trade Development and schools of international studies. All of them are combining to make a tremendous force in order to help make this a lot more economically privileged area, and trying to get the opportunities built up there.

Then there is an additional one, I know it is a little bigger one, but it is one for a new product development center

for small rural manufacturers. These other two, one is \$400,000 and the other is \$200,000, but this other one that was brought to my attention to try to work on is about a \$10 million request for a new product development center at Oklahoma State University for small and rural manufacturers.

So those are the main ones that we have listed here. There is one other one that we have, but I would like to give this to you for your consideration and help. I need your help on these.

Mr. Wolf. Thank you, Wes. I appreciate the testimony, and we will give it careful consideration.

Mr. Watkins. Thank you so much. Appreciate all of you.

[The statement of Mr. Watkins follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Wednesday, April 10, 2002.

WITNESS

HON. J. RANDY FORBES, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF VIRGINIA

Mr. Wolf. Mr. Forbes. Your full statement will appear in the record.

Mr. Forbes. Yes, sir. If I could put my statement in the record, Mr. Chairman, and Mr. Ranking Member, Mr. Serrano. I am basically going to summarize and be very brief because I know how much time you have spent here already today.

First of all, I just wanted to thank you for the support you gave us last year for the Campostella Square Community Center in the city of Chesapeake. That has been a big help to that program; it is one of the most disadvantaged areas probably in that city, and you were a major help in making that move towards a reality.

The second thing I am just going to ask is really a general request, and that is for our First Responders. The money that they need is desperately needed across the country, and the more we can get that down to the local level without having the States be kind of a middleman to do that, the more advantageous I believe it is for each of those units. All of them have been taxed in so many ways that that help certainly is vitally needed.

The rest of the requests I have are in the written statement. I will not take any more of your time, but thank you for what you did to help us last year and thank you for your consideration.

Mr. Wolf. We will look at it and give it careful consideration.

Mr. Serrano.

Mr. Serrano. No, thank you.

Mr. Forbes. Thank you for your time.

[The statement of Mr. Forbes follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Wednesday, April 10, 2002.

WITNESS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEBRASKA

Mr. Serrano [presiding]. Mr. Bereuter, you are next. Your statement will be in the record, so if you could just summarize.

Mr. Bereuter. Thank you very much, Mr. Serrano and Members of this subcommittee. I think it is the first time I have testified before in this Appropriations subcommittee in all my years, so I know I will get special treatment.

I am here to testify and request assistance on two related and a third program, and I believe that Congressman Tom Osborne, my colleague from western Nebraska, will be here shortly to also seek support for two of the programs.

Our State, along with Iowa and several other States, have a huge methamphetamine problem. It is growing dramatically. It is tying up our court system. We have explosions in laboratories; the number of clandestine labs is increasing, like triple and quadruple within a year, and we are requesting some assistance to the State of Nebraska in a statewide effort to fight the methamphetamine problem. It is a problem that is now affecting people down in our middle school level, in addition to many others in the State. I have given you some of the details about the growth of this tremendous problem.

We actually encouraged the State of Nebraska to put together a comprehensive proposal that we might present to the subcommittee for assistance on this antidrug program, and so you have before you the request for two related grants proposed for the State of Nebraska for use against the methamphetamine problem in the whole State. The details are there.

The second one is aimed very directly at putting together a clandestine lab team for which \$500,000 is requested. To give you some idea of the growth there, last year, the team responded to 231 lab situations, a 413 percent increase over the previous year. In the first 2 months of 2002, there have been 42 incidents in January and February, which are generally the slowest months.

This is a huge drug problem in our State that is really hitting us very much by surprise because we had not expected this methamphetamine problem to be as big as it is.

This past week I met with one of our colleagues in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly that heads the Canadian delegation. Finally, the Canadians have passed legislation to limit the amount of precursor drugs that are coming into our country. But one of the components of methamphetamine is anhydrous ammonia; and anhydrous ammonia is available in agricultural supplies across the whole center part of the country, perhaps much of the Nation. So it is very hard to limit the problems here.

The third request, separate from this methamphetamine problem, where we are seeking some assistance is for the Boys and Girls Home of Nebraska. We are requesting, and I think Tom Osborne will join me in this request as well, \$750,000 for juvenile justice programs for the Boys and Girls Homes of Nebraska. These funds would be used for a staff secure shelter,

a juvenile diversion program, electronic monitoring and tracking for low-risk youth, and group home programs.

The Boys and Girls Home of Nebraska provides counseling and treatment services to facilities and children in crisis. It is a nonprofit agency, as you might expect from that name. It sponsors prevention and treatment programs that enhance the function of the family and individual members. They have eight facilities across the State, two of which are located in my district.

So, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Serrano, these three items are my first request, I believe ever, before this subcommittee that relate to my State and my district, and two are directly related to antidrug efforts against methamphetamine; and the third, as I mentioned, is for a wider variety of assistance to families with children in the Boys and Girls Home of Nebraska.

I will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Mr. Wolf [presiding]. Do you want to ask any questions before you go vote?

Mr. Serrano. No, thank you.

Mr. Wolf. I understand this methamphetamine problem very well. Believe it or not, the center of the methamphetamine trade in the State of Virginia is in my congressional district and Bob Goodlatte's down in Harrisonburg in Shenandoah County. Who would have ever thought?

Mr. Bereuter. Also agricultural areas.

Mr. Wolf. Yes. The staff just tells us that there was \$20 million earmarked that we put in the COPS program for grants on this, that is currently available now. You might want to begin to apply for that. We can certainly take a look at it, but the staff would certainly help you and tell you who to call and try to put in a good word for you.

But here is money that has already been appropriated. It is down there. They are still formulating those numbers, so I would think you might still want to come in and make an application for this now; and we will try to help you with that as we look at this other thing.

Mr. Bereuter. I was looking back, and my staff does not know if the State of Nebraska has applied for that program, perhaps not aware of it. We will check on that right away.

Mr. Wolf. Call John and talk to John, and he can put you in touch with the people down there and we can encourage them. That way you can get something fast and furious, quickly.

Mr. Bereuter. I appreciate your advice, and we will let you know about our success or lack thereof. Thank you.

Mr. Wolf. Thank you very much.

[The statement of Mr. Bereuter follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Wednesday, April 10, 2002.

WITNESS

HON. TOM OSBORNE, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEBRASKA

Mr. Wolf. Coach, go ahead.

Mr. Osborne. I will just come in and say ditto.

Mr. Wolf. We were telling Doug, if you are interested in methamphetamine lab clean-up grants, there was \$20 million appropriated last year in the COPS program that has not been allocated. So we encourage Doug, and your staff too, to apply for that; and our staff will help put you in touch with the people.

So it isn't something you would have to wait for this appropriations cycle, which will come a year from now. You could apply for it now.

So John, here, can meet with your people and see if we can help you that way, if that is one of your interests, in the methamphetamine lab clean-up grants.

Mr. Osborne. Yes, it really is. I am not going to take a lot of your time, because Doug has already presented. But in rural areas, methamphetamine is pretty much what cocaine and crack is to urban areas, and we have really seen an explosion out of it in our countryside. Part of the reason is you can manufacture meth out in the country and not be detected as easily, because there is an odor and sometimes they use chemicals from fertilizer plants and so on.

So we had a conference in Nebraska, oh, a month or so ago, and were really alarmed at the statistics, the number of people using it. The average meth user probably commits 130 crimes through the year to support the habit, and the other issue is that it is so highly addictive it takes about 2 years of inpatient treatment to give you a chance to recover.

So, anyway, what we are asking for is simply some help in this regard. We are asking for \$1 million for a comprehensive four-part strategy for reducing the use, production, and trafficking of meth in Nebraska. What we would like to do is to offer a comprehensive approach to the problem.

I think the first thing we want to do is try to get an assessment of the overall economic impact and social impact. So part of it has to do with getting a handle on the size of the problem, what it is costing people and the social cost. And then the other is to make sure that our enforcement officials and treatment personnel are well prepared and well trained, and then providing the law enforcement people with the latest equipment.

As you probably know, when you dismantle a meth lab, you have a real problem. You don't just go in and take it apart. You have to wear a special suit that costs several hundred dollars and can only be used one time; and we have trucks that go around that are fairly sophisticated that go to those sites. So we need some help in that regard.

The second project that we are asking for funding on, \$500,000, is to provide for a Nebraska clan lab team, which again is a meth issue. And this clan lab team is in need of protective gear to ensure against the highly volatile chemicals found at a meth lab site, which I have already described. And, of course, just to get rid of the dangerous toxins that are left behind is pretty difficult because, to meet EPA requirements, you have to go through some extensive procedures. And often we have had to ask people from Kansas City to come up to do the cleanup because they are the only people qualified,

and that is several hundred miles away. Of course, these individuals need specialized training in order to do this, and so we feel this is important.

Then the last request, and I think again maybe you have heard from Congressman Bereuter, we would like an earmark of \$750,000 for the Boys and Girls Home located in Columbus, Nebraska, to provide juvenile justice and delinquency-related programs throughout Nebraska. Have you heard about that?

Mr. Wolf. We did. Mr. Bereuter covered it. I am familiar with it.

Mr. Osborne. So you know what it is about.

We find that in rural areas there is really a dearth of facilities that can deal with young people and juvenile problems and drug counseling, drug rehab, and mental health and all those types of things. So that is essentially what this would be for. And I think the Boys and Girls Home has several locations throughout my district; two of them are in Mr. Bereuter's area, too.

So, anyway, that is what we are after; and Doug has mentioned that, and I will not belabor the point.

So really two requests regarding meth and trying to combat that problem in rural areas, and then the request for the Boys and Girls Home in Columbus for kids.

Mr. Wolf. We will try to help.

I was telling Doug the center of the methamphetamine trade in the State of Virginia is in my congressional district and Bob Goodlatte's, down in Harrisonburg by James Madison University, which I would never have thought would ever come to that region. It is almost bucolic, yet it is there.

So what we have done out there, we have gotten all of the law enforcement, the State police, the FBI, the DEA, the INS, all have set up a team and they are beginning to get a handle on it now. It has taken a lot of time, but we will be glad to see what we can do to help you.

But I would encourage your staff person to come by and meet with John and with Mr. Bereuter's person, and maybe we can start the process with Justice now, and maybe you can tap into that money that has already been allocated.

Mr. Osborne. That would help, yes. Thank you.

Mr. Wolf. Mr. Serrano.

Mr. Serrano. I just spoke to Doug downstairs, and I told him to really press on the issue of getting some of those dollars that are already allocated. I told him, with the help of the subcommittee, that would make a difference.

Mr. Osborne. We appreciate that.

Mr. Serrano. Because that pot is there already.

Mr. Osborne. Well, that is good to hear. We might be able to access it quicker.

Well, unless you have further questions, I thank you for your time and thank you for this opportunity.

Mr. Wolf. Thank you.

Mr. Osborne. I will see you again.

[The statement of Mr. Osborne follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Wednesday, April 10, 2002.

WITNESS

HON. BOB FILNER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. Wolf. Mr. Filner.

Mr. Filner. Well, I am not next, but I will be happy to go.

Mr. Wolf. You are next. You are jumping ahead of Adam Schiff, since he is not here.

Mr. Filner. Thank you. Nice to see you. I am not used to seeing you in this chairmanship.

Mr. Wolf. You are going to be on the train.

Mr. Filner. Right. So you will support me on this one.

Mr. Wolf. I will check with Duncan Hunter and then we will see.

Mr. Filner. Actually, I now have, by the way--and this is relevant to my testimony, Mr. Chairman. The county through which the train--there were two different counties, mine and his; I now have both after the redistricting.

Mr. Wolf. Well, off the record.

[Discussion off the record.]

Mr. Wolf. Go ahead, Mr. Filner.

Mr. Filner. Thank you for hearing the members, and thank you, Mr. Serrano, for being here.

As I mentioned, I represent not only the urban area of south San Diego, I now represent the whole border of California and Mexico from San Diego to Arizona, which includes Imperial County, which is in the very southeastern corner of California. It is a very large agricultural county and very poor county, the poorest in California by whatever means you want to measure--over 30 percent unemployment, for example. We go crazy with 7 percent, so 30 percent in this county.

What I am asking the subcommittee to do is, within the COPS program, the technology investment program of the COPS area, we are looking for telecommunications infrastructure. They have just not been able to build or to have--because of their relative poor budgets and other things, they do not have any communications for emergency situations between the various cities there, the various Federal and county and local agencies, especially in public safety.

This is obviously a key county within national security, 84 miles, as I said, along the U.S.-Mexico border, 250,000 truck crossings annually. They are trying to build a county-wide 800 megahertz system.

I asked, when I first got this county, the various cities, the county, the school districts in the county what their number one infrastructure need was, and all of them got together and said this is it. They have put together a \$14 million program to provide the infrastructure that will provide a seamless emergency communications network from the Pacific Ocean in through the high desert of California.

I have in my testimony just a few incidents of what occurs, given their poor situation. An ambulance from one part of the county is trying to transport a critical heart patient to a hospital in Indio. They do not have a hospital, by the way, in this poor county. The patient becomes unconscious, the

ambulance attendant tries to contact the base hospital, the sheriff's dispatch, but they cannot do it. The ambulance arrives and the hospital is unprepared.

The fire department cannot contact their dispatchers. There is interference from Mexico because of the closeness with the border; and of course, they have their own system, we have ours, but they are not at all integrated. And so the interference prevents communications, and there are times when emergency crews cannot talk to their bases.

A police officer in El Centro, one of the cities in Imperial County, was trying to tell his dispatcher that he had been shot. The interference prevented help coming to him on time. On and on these go.

They put together, and I have it attached to my testimony, an emergency communications network, a high speed communications infrastructure for this county, which can become, I am sure, very important in an international situation because of its border geography.

So I hope you will look at this, give some consideration to a place that has just been forgotten in the infrastructure funding from this Nation.

Mr. Wolf. Sure. We will.

Mr. Filner. I thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Mr. Serrano.

Mr. Wolf. Mr. Serrano.

Mr. Serrano. No. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Wolf. No questions. Thank you very much for your testimony, and your full testimony will appear in the record.

Mr. Filner. I understand. Thanks.

[The statement of Mr. Filner follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Wednesday, April 10, 2002.

WITNESS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. Wolf. Mr. Schiff.

Mr. Schiff. Mr. Chairman and Members, thank you very much for taking the time to hear from all of us today. I can only imagine what your schedule must be like, but I wanted to share with you a couple of funding priorities for my district and some that have a national impact as well. And I recognize that you are operating under some tough fiscal constraints and there are a whole lot of worthy projects and programs that deserve funding that you will have to struggle with.

The first I wanted to talk about briefly today is the Law Enforcement Tribute Act. We have requested \$3 million to fully fund the Law Enforcement Tribute Act, H.R. 2624. This bill that I authored, along with original cosponsors Tom Davis and others, a bipartisan measure, provides a Federal contribution to States and localities that are trying to build memorials honoring slain public safety officers.

In just one of the cities I represent, for example,

Glendale, they have lost four police officers. But like many police departments, they do not have the resources, certainly not in their budget; and often it is very difficult for them to raise the funding through contributions just to erect a proper memorial to those that have given their lives in the line of duty.

The authorizing bill passed the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime. We expect it to be included in the conference report for the Department of Justice reauthorization bill. This year's \$3 million appropriation would allow a minimum of 20 law enforcement memorial grants to be awarded around the Nation.

Especially in light of the events of September 11, when 70 police officers and 343 firefighters lost their lives, it seems an appropriate time for Congress to partner with local communities and help them honor the sacrifice of those that have given their lives to serve the public.

I would also like to highlight a couple of other programs, one in the city of Burbank, which I represent. They are working to develop a two-part program for teenagers. We are requesting \$200,000, either from the Safe Schools Initiative or the Juvenile Justice Programs account, which would improve the development of a conflict resolution curriculum for middle schools, as well as a teen counseling program, which would include peer counseling or youth-oriented counseling for drug abuse, sexual abuse, and alcohol abuse.

I would also like to highlight the need for resources for DNA backlog elimination. I think this is a very important national priority. We are requesting \$50,000 from the Crime Lab Improvement Program in the city of Glendale. They have a backlog and are trying to resolve 24 forcible rape cases and six unsolved homicides, and I believe that assistance in removing this backlog may help them resolve some of these crimes which are as old as 20 years, in some cases.

In addition to this local request, I would urge your consideration for national funding on DNA backlog. I was an assistant U.S. Attorney for 6 years, and I am convinced that an investment in DNA nationwide is one of the single most effective ways of solving unsolved violent crimes. Dollar for dollar, I think it is a tremendous investment.

Also, I would like to encourage your support for the Safe Return Program that the Alzheimer's Association has worked on that assists in the identification and safe and timely return of individuals with Alzheimer's disease who wander and become lost.

I also want to draw your attention to two areas of concern in the President's budget, the elimination of the COPS funding, as well as the elimination of funding for the SCAAP program. The California delegation, I am sure, will be joined by other States as well. We are working on a bipartisan letter of support for SCAAP, which has a tremendous impact on States like California that have large immigrant populations.

That, in an abbreviated form, is what I wanted to share with you today. Again, I know it must be a long day for you all, but it is wonderful you give Members a chance to come and personally make an appeal.

Mr. Wolf. Well, thank you very much. And your full

statement will appear in the record; we will give it careful consideration.

Mr. Serrano.

Mr. Serrano. No. Thank you so much for your testimony.

Mr. Schiff. Thank you both very much. Have a good afternoon.

[The statement of Mr. Schiff follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Wednesday, April 10, 2002.

WITNESS

HON. SAM FARR, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. Wolf. Mr. Crowley and Mr. Farr, and then Mr. Rothman.

Mr. Farr. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. As a fellow appropriator, I am always impressed and overwhelmed by the diversity of issues that you have before your committee, and I bring one that most people don't even think about and probably should even be in the title of your committee, and that is the issue of the oceans.

You are the committee, really, not even Defense; the Navy doesn't get into ocean management and ocean resources, and that being part of NOAA, and NOAA being the biggest path of the Department of Commerce, we kind of get lost. So it really is a wonderful opportunity to be able to come and sort of give you the perspective of one legislator who is really involved in the oceans.

I know you don't have them so much so in your districts, but----

Mr. Wolf. We go to them, though.

Mr. Farr. You go to them. But, you know what, as I told former Chairman Rogers when I was trying to make a point, the waters of the ocean start in the interior and they flow. They flow across this country in our rivers, and whatever they pick up, good or bad, whatever health they are in for spawning, good or bad, is essentially the health of the Nation. So we really are symbiotically related to the inland as much as to the sea.

What impressed me in California when I started looking at the State, is really, if you look at the coastal zone of California, the coastal zone of this Nation is where most people live in the whole United States. It is where our commerce sort of begins and ends if it is coming onshore or going offshore. They say that one out of every six jobs is related to the marine environment; that one-third of our national GDP is produced in the coastal zone, whether in fishing, transportation, recreation or other industries. It is one of our greatest national assets, but it is really being neglected.

We have Jean-Michel Cousteau, who is going to try to be here today along with one of our colleagues, to talk to you about what he is seeing happening. And I just shared with him that we created a caucus on the oceans. And I cochair that with a bipartisan cochair, and I would just like to highlight a

couple of things that we have prioritized.

One of them is the National Marine Sanctuary program. The National Marine Sanctuary program is kind of like our national parks. We have created 13 of these, and we can add more. The difference is that in our national parks, we kind of protect them. In marine sanctuaries, we can protect them or we can allow them to be commercialized. So the intent of Congress was to create something that would be both to protect natural resources and to educate people about what the ocean environment is all about. However, we would still allow commercial fishing to go on--we don't allow that to go on in national parks, like commercial timbering--certainly shipping and marine access, recreation. Among the other things we do is we do some conservation, education and science stuff.

My specific requests are really if this committee could consider a small increase to the President's O&M request to address the substantial backlog of vessel maintenance and facility improvements for the sanctuaries. We have this responsibility, but the only way we can get to it is by boat. The facilities that these sanctuaries have--and these are not big boats; these are little, tiny boats--some of them have nothing, and we need to put some attention to that.

Also, I hope the committee will support the President's full request for the PAC account, and ensure that the levels of funding are preserved throughout the appropriations process. It is not a big budget. It is about, what, \$15 million, I think. But to those areas, as you know in the area you represent, the Luray Caves, it is certainly a destination that attracts people, and that is what these marine sanctuaries are. They are areas that attract people.

The other area that is very important is the marine protected areas. These include fishery management zones, national seashores and parks and wildlife refuges, and they are very contentious right now. They are just getting started, and they are contentious because there is no specific information that allows for a broad range of uses and benefits that could be programmed.

I frankly think we are going to end up in the ocean like we do on land. We are going to end up zoning part of it that you can do this in certain places and you cannot do this in other places; and it will be based on inventory information. That is going to come out of this kind of study. And what we are getting is, how do we better know what to protect and how do we know where we can allow it to be commercialized and utilized. So I suggest that we really need to do that quickly, because right now it is just contentious.

People say, I want to go there and do this; and others say, you cannot go there because we think there are valuable assets there. We just do not have enough information. So most courts and most decision-makers, if they are uncertain about something, they delay it. So we need to put some emphasis and control language in there, some budget language, to say, get on with getting this information together.

And I would just like to say that, like all of us, we go home to our districts and learn about these incredible programs; and then everyone comes here. I think one thing we all need to do in all of our committees is require all of our governments, particularly the government agencies, to be better

coordinated and to work in a unified fashion. They all have different offices and different places and different staffs. And one can tell you why the other cannot do what they want to do, but we have to force some more coordination.

And, finally, I would just like to emphasize the need to better protect our marine fisheries. I think Sylvia Earle made it very clear to me when she said that we don't have Americans to go out and hunt for their meat at night, and yet a little over 100 years ago we did. If you wanted meat on the table, you had to get it yourself. But when it comes to fishing, we do go out and hunt. We hire commercial fishermen to do it, but other than some catfish and trout and some salmon, most of the fish that are eaten in restaurants are just wild game or wild stock. We have caught 4.6 million tons in 2000 alone, and of that, we have put about \$3.6 billion into our economy.

So it is a national asset, but it has very poor, if any, management. And we are going to kill the goose that lays the golden egg until we understand how to manage these wild resources and not just take them. We know that one-third of our assessed U.S. stocks, and these are the ones that are commercial, a lot of fish we don't eat, but the ones that we do eat, of that a third are severely overfished. It is just a matter of when they are not going to be there anymore. The trouble is, they also may be part of the food chain for some other fish that may not be there, and so on and so on.

So I know Tom Allen, our colleague, has witnessed the devastation of what happens when you have the collapse of the New England cod fishery. We are seeing a dramatic decline in West Coast groundfish, which are the rockfish; and we would just ask that we do everything we can to get this better understood by gaining information so that we won't lose those jobs. This is like a base closure or like a corporation leaving town, because these are the only things a lot of our local economies live on, the fishery industry.

So stock assessment is where we need to have an increased appropriation, and we would also beg you to consider more rigorous funding for both the fisheries' observer and cooperative research programs.

``Cooperative'' is where you get the commercial fishermen to give incentives to have the people come on their boats and go out and do scientific studies on marine boats; instead of having just a government-owned ship and all the scientists waiting to get on the government ship, when there is a commercial boat which could be going out to sea and making some money and helping scientists get their information.

So those are the things I ask for, and this committee is really so key to whether our coastal America and the coastal economy of America will be able to be sustained or, I think, lost. And that is why I am here today, to plead that you give really strong consideration to the NOAA side of your budget.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Wolf. Well, thank you. I appreciate your testimony. And not that it is bad to come here to ask for something for your district, but I am sincerely impressed that you just talked about general issues of your concern and did not ask for a particular project for Coronado or someplace like that.

So we will try to do that. We raised the issue of

fisheries, overfishing, with both the Administrator of NOAA and also with the Secretary of Commerce when he came before us. But we will try to take it all into consideration.

Mr. Farr. The wonderful thing about oceans is that the water doesn't know political boundary lines. And, frankly, of that water, it is all owned by the government, so we have no property rights issues and all that other stuff. So the only people that will hustle for it are essentially interest groups, either pro or con, on the issue of environment. So you have a big judicial role to play in where we allocate our resources.

So I thank you for your dedication to this job.

Mr. Wolf. Mr. Serrano.

Mr. Serrano. Just a quick comment and clarification.

My district in the Bronx does have the Long Island Sound on the side, so we take great interest in the ocean. And, of course, I was born on an island, and it wasn't Manhattan, so I started off surrounded by the ocean.

But I want to take this opportunity also, Sam, to commend you. Because from the day I met you, you have defended our need to be fair to the ocean and to treat it properly. And you are really a champion on this, and I mean this sincerely. I tell you that in private, it is not important. I am telling you in public here for the record. So keep it up, and we will continue to do our best.

Mr. Farr. Well, thank you, and now we are going to put you on the Oceans Caucus, since you are born of it and represent it.

Mr. Serrano. As long as you don't put me in the ocean.

Mr. Farr. Sounds like a very ``Sound'' thing to do.

[The statement of Mr. Farr follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Wednesday, April 10, 2002.

WITNESS

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Mr. Wolf. Okay. Mr. Rothman and then Mr. Crowley.

Mr. Rothman. I hope you don't ban charts in here. These are good ones, and I will just show them to you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, it is a pleasure to be with you. And Mr. Ranking Member, Mr. Serrano, it is always a privilege and pleasure, as well.

I am here to talk about two programs. One is the Community Oriented Police Services, COPS, Safe School Initiative, and the second is the NOAA program, the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program. Let me start with the COPS program.

As you may remember, I came here last year as a new member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Wolf. I think you had sneakers on, if I am not mistaken.

Mr. Rothman. You are absolutely correct, and my back is feeling much better, thank you.

I wanted to tell you that I had been successful the year

before as a member of the Judiciary Committee in getting the Secure Our Schools Act passed unanimously by the Judiciary Committee. That is the matching grant program where schools can put up half the money and the Feds will put up the other half to get security cameras and police in the schools, and training if the school board wishes to do that. And you were kind enough and generous enough to fund that program to the tune of \$5 million.

Now, it had been authorized at \$30 million as a nationwide program, but I certainly understood, its being a new program, that \$5 million was very generous. I just wanted to report to you that it has been a tremendous success.

I did want to also introduce you to someone. Last year, when I told you about the need for the program, I read to you, among other things, a letter from a middle school in Saddle Brook, New Jersey; and I read to you a letter from a young girl named Andrea Katz, who at the time was 14 years old, from Palisades Park, New Jersey. And Andrea Katz is here with her mom and dad, Emily and Warren, to say thank you. I know rules don't permit her to speak, but she is here and her presence is to say thank you.

Mr. Wolf. Well, her name will appear in the record, so give her full name.

Mr. Rothman. Andrea Katz, K-A-T-Z, from Palisades Park, New Jersey. She wanted to say thank you. And since then, since she wrote to us--and she wrote to the President, actually, and sent me a copy, and said, ``You know, you would think that 14-year-old eighth graders would be thinking about all kinds of carefree things, but we are not. We are afraid in our schools.'' it was after the shooting in Santee, California.

And she wrote, ``I beg of you, Mr. President,'' and then she wrote to me to say, ``Please, can you help too, Congressman, to do something about this to make our schools safe?'' .

So I had my Saddle Brook middle school students write me, the middle school from Palisades Park, and then months later on another issue. But 2 months ago, I had an eighth grade girl from Elmwood Park, New Jersey, again in my district, get 270 signatures on a petition saying she was afraid for her life; that there were gangs and guns being threatened to be brought to school, et cetera, and she needed help. And we helped her get money under the COPS program.

To give you an idea of the overdemand, if you will, for this program, the best statistic we could put together, the most relevant one, was for the COPS program itself--which, by the way, administers the Secure Our Schools Program--it basically is two to one. Just about half of the applications for monies under the COPS program were able to be funded. Which I guess is somewhat good, but that means that half the kids in the country are looking over their shoulders wondering if they are going to get attacked or somebody's going to come into the building and hurt them.

It may sound melodramatic, but it is truly the way the kids are today. They are worried. And I have two kids who are in school still, an eighth grader and a fourth grader, and I know what is on their minds. It is in the back of their minds, but it is there. And mine is not a particularly poor district, it

is a working class, economically speaking, district; and there is a huge demand for the program.

So I would first say, thank you for the \$5 million last year in the face of a \$30 million authorization. I think that trial program has borne out the need for the program, and I would, with respect and humility, ask you to consider increasing that \$5 million closer to the \$30 million that had been authorized for this national program.

You can imagine that the \$5 million, with the 40,000-some-odd schools in the Nation, doesn't go that far. Granted, there are other programs that deal with other aspects of school safety, but not like this, not a matching program, which obviously eliminates the concern about a Federal mandate. These are schools that are ready to put up half the money for the Federal Government to help them make their schools safe. That is number one.

The other program, with your indulgence, and this is where I am going to rely on my visual aids. Here is the beautiful Garden State of New Jersey. You have heard about it, I know. Here is Orange. This is the Hudson River here. The Orange district is the Hackensack Meadowlands, 8,500 acres undeveloped; 20 million people live around this metropolitan area. And, again, to thank you and to remind you of the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum.

Mr. Wolf. Isn't that the one I told you about?

Mr. Rothman. It is, indeed, Mr. Chairman, and it was part of my inspiration to come before this committee, to know that it could be done; that adjacent to an urban center a portion of land that had been made a wasteland in the most literal sense, a land filled with waste and given up on, could be made into a magnificent ecological refuge and a place of open space and beauty and education and restoration for an urban population.

Mr. Wolf. That is near my old neighborhood, where I lived.

Mr. Rothman. I think that occurred to me when I brought this to your attention, because I knew you obviously---

Mr. Serrano. He is good.

Mr. Wolf. He is good.

Mr. Rothman. No, no, no.

Mr. Wolf. All Republicans are not rich.

Mr. Rothman. But many of them have good hearts.

Mr. Wolf. Of course. My dad was a Philadelphia policeman.

Mr. Rothman. Yes. So that is what we want to do.

New Jersey is the most densely crowded State in the United States. This is the most densely crowded region in the most densely crowded State. We have 8,500 acres we can preserve. We had \$1.2 million last year from this committee to match, and we have the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission all ready to match the \$1.2 million as the Federal partner. That is \$2.4 million to acquire property. We have the Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife folks, and we have figuratively put a green fence around this 8,500 acres to prevent development. Now we just need to pick off these pieces of property.

The Meadowlands Commission just so happens, on this map, to have a breakdown of the specifics: Losen Slote Creek Park, Carlstadt-Moonachie Wetlands, Bellman's Creek Wetlands, Petrillo Tract, Mill Creek, Penhorn Creek, Guarini Site--you may remember that name--FD&P Enterprises, Kearny Marsh, Saw

Mill Creek Wetlands, and Berry's Creek Wetlands. For \$5 million we can buy those pieces and really--and I want to pick the right metaphor--put the nail in the coffin of any efforts to develop this 8,500 acres.

Again, if we can do this--and we have just about done it, and this year's allocation, I think, will send the final signal to the developing community that we have enough brownfields and Superfund sites in New Jersey to redevelop, Don't develop the last 8,500 acres of open space in the Meadowlands of New Jersey, which would be an urban park like the one near Philly, outside of Manhattan, which is right here.

Can you imagine if we saved this, as we are going to do with your help? Twenty million people will see this as a model of what can be done in the most urban area of the United States, a model to urban areas around the country and to every urban center in the world. If we can do it in New Jersey, they can do it anyplace. So if you can come up with \$5 million, we can nail that one shut.

Again, I thank you. We have the specific, the Federal partner, we have the properties on the merits; they will all work.

Thank you for your caring, your support, your good hearts, and your deep pockets.

Mr. Serrano. You are embarrassing me.

Mr. Rothman. And I hope you will continue to care and support these two great projects.

Mr. Wolf. Thank you. I have no questions.

Mr. Serrano.

Mr. Serrano. I just want to say that the idea of bringing constituents and maps is very effective, but I do want to say to your constituents that this is what we call in Spanish a real ``nudge'' on behalf of the district. And that is what we get paid to do.

And I certainly have supported you in the past, I will continue to do so, as long as you promise that none of that land will be used to steal the Yankees from the Bronx.

Mr. Rothman. No, that is okay. As long as you don't steal the Nets, we won't steal the Yankees.

Mr. Crowley. Steal?

Mr. Rothman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The statement of Mr. Rothman follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Wednesday, April 10, 2002.

WITNESS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. Wolf. Mr. Crowley, Mr. Stupak, and then Mr. Pallone.

Mr. Crowley, your full statement will appear in the record.

Mr. Crowley. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much, and I just wanted to ask, looking at Mr. Rothman's map here, where is Wolf's Cove? I didn't see it on any of the maps.

Mr. Rothman. It is in the middle of the Wolf Environmental

Preserve in Serrano Park.

Mr. Serrano. We are trying to run a serious committee meeting here.

Mr. Rothman. Right.

Mr. Crowley. Mr. Chairman, let me thank you for all your work on the CJS bill last year and what you will do this year, and express my continued desire to work with you and the entire committee on developing important funding priorities for our Nation.

I would also like to recognize my good friend from the Bronx, Congressman Jose Serrano, who has worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents, our entire city and the Nation from his position on this very, very important committee here in Congress.

As America continues to fight the war on terrorism, the funding this committee provides to the men and women in the diplomatic corps and to the Departments of State and Justice takes on an even more important role today.

I will begin by speaking about several important projects in my congressional district--and I hope, Mr. Chairman, I will not disappoint you by doing that--for which I am requesting funding from this committee. Then, as a member of the House Committee on International Relations, I would like to comment on some of the important international aspects covered in this critical legislation.

Domestically, the first project has to do with the establishment of a community-based technological center to assist at-risk youth. I am very grateful to this committee, to you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Serrano, for allocating last year \$400,000 for the creation of a modern technology center, the NETS or the Neighborhood Enhancement and Training Services Center, the portion that I represent in the Bronx in New York. Congressman Serrano and myself were present to present the check to the center just a few short weeks ago, and I am grateful for his attendance.

I again seek the same funding assistance for another high-tech center, this one catering to the area residents in the Corona portion of my district in Queens, New York. Funding for these types of after-school and weekend community centers are vital as they serve as a safe haven for young people to spend their idle time during their after-school hours.

Additionally, the community for which I seek this funding, Corona, is a diverse neighborhood made up--a broad swath of new Americans from throughout Central and South America and the Dominican Republic. In fact, National Geographic has called the Corona-Elmhurst, Queens, neighborhoods the most diverse ZIP codes in the United States; and in fact, they are probably the most diverse areas of the entire world.

The second request that I place before this committee is for the Citizens Committee of New York to continue their local anticrime initiatives, such as supporting the expansion of community policing and neighborhood Crime Stoppers throughout the City of New York. This not-for-profit has successfully handled many Federal, State, and local grants before dealing with community-based groups who are combating crime within their neighborhoods. They have proven successful at working with citizens, local community Crime Stopper groups, and the

police to form a cohesive unit to make the City of New York safer for all its residents.

This funding will be distributed to several neighborhood groups to undertake antigraffiti initiatives, print community newsletters on ways to avoid crime, and the purchase of anticrime coordination tools, like walkie-talkies, among other purposes. This funding will assist local community Crime Stopper groups and Neighborhood Watches to better protect their communities and battle the scourge of crime, drugs, and gangs.

These are just two examples of a number of important funding priorities in our country, and I appreciate your granting me this opportunity to appear before you today to address several key needs for my constituents and the people of New York City.

With regard to international issues, as both the representative of one of the most diverse congressional districts in our Nation and as a member of the Committee on International Relations, I would like to implore this committee to recognize the value inherent in the United States' playing a key role in the international community and, in particular, supporting international peacekeeping activities. I realize the Committee on Appropriations is hampered by budget constraints, but international peacekeeping is a serious funding issue, and cannot and should not be ignored.

Mr. Chairman, from fighting for improved human rights in China to your excellent work in both highlighting and then working to stop the trafficking of conflict diamonds and their role in supporting rebels in countries such as Sierra Leone and other African nations, I applaud your leadership on international issues. I very much look forward to working with you to stop the trade of these diamonds and to support an active U.S. role in foreign affairs.

Finally, I am also seeking funding for a worthwhile peace resolution program that serves my ancestral homeland of Ireland. I am seeking funding for the Mitchell Scholarship Program, a worthwhile program named after former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell. The Mitchell Scholarship is a competitive scholarship program that allows Americans to pursue a year of postgraduate study at a university in the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland.

The Mitchell Scholarship was established in 1998, in conjunction with the signing of the Good Friday Peace Accord, and acts somewhat like the Rhodes Scholarship program, but for Ireland both north and south of the border. By bringing scholars together, we are able to build a multiethnic, multireligious future for the residents of all of Ireland.

Mr. Chairman and Mr. Serrano, and to the other members of this committee, I look forward to a productive year in working with each and every one of you and everyone in the Chamber for our shared goals for a better America and for a better world; and I thank you very, very much for this opportunity to come before you.

Mr. Wolf. Thank you, Mr. Crowley. I have no questions for you.

Mr. Serrano.

Mr. Serrano. Just to thank you, Joe, for the work you have done in the broadcaster area and to tell you, Mr. Chairman, that

Mr. Crowley speaks of diversity. There isn't a single country in the world that is not represented in his district, and he has firsthand knowledge of many of the issues you deal with, Mr. Chairman, because he sees the after-effects of people who come here and how they deal with those issues.

[The statement of Mr. Crowley follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Mr. Wolf. Mr. Stupak, Mr. Allen and Mr. Greenwood, do you all want to kind of come up together, or however you want to move it along.

Mr. Greenwood. I think Allen and Weldon and I can do it together.

Wednesday, April 10, 2002.

WITNESS

HON. BART STUPAK, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

Mr. Stupak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Serrano, for the opportunity to be here. I want to mention two projects in my district, international programs. First, I would like to mention the COPS program, as the founder and cochair of the Law Enforcement Caucus. That is a program near and dear to my heart. I hope we would fund the program at 330 million, what we did last year. I am sure you received your letter from the U.S. Conference of Mayors there supporting it. There has been one letter sent to the Budget Committee, a letter being circulated to appropriators. Hopefully, you will keep this vital program going.

Last year you helped up us with the Charlevoix-Cheboygan-Emmett Dispatch Authority. We are back again to try to get some more money. You gave us part of what we needed the last year. It is for 911 emergency services. These are three small counties in lower northern Michigan. They all work together. All law enforcement, police, fire and EMT are all together. They have to upgrade and for these small counties--and they are doing a three countywide 911 merging services--it is quite expensive, for \$1 million ten thousand. We are asking for that to finish the upgrade there.

The Thin Blue Line of Michigan is another program you funded last year. I think we received 25,000 for it. Thin Blue Line is really a volunteer organization that started in 1999. What it really is, is police officers. The founder is a woman whose husband was a state trooper who got killed. What they found was no matter what agency you are with when a tragedy happens like that, there is no one who really helps coordinate it. So these women volunteer their time, drive all over the State of Michigan to help them out, let them know what their benefits are, put them in contact with the right people. Again no matter what agency it is, they will go do it. Last year you helped them--we had the budget cuts. You helped them with \$25,000. We talked to them again this year and they said if you

could see any way to give us any more money, \$185,000, just so we can keep people round the clock and pay them a little bit of salary, they would appreciate it. It is strictly a volunteer program but they do have some costs, and before they always dug into their pockets and they appreciate your helping them last year. We are back this year asking for a little bit more.

Sault Ste. Marie of Chippewa Indians law enforcement, they are asking for \$57,000 just for police radio and computer equipment, a small amount but in my rural district it goes a long way, just so they can communicate with each other. They put in most of the money, but they are right on the border with Canada and the radios they want to get is the upgrade of what they have so that they can speak with the U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Customs, and even the Royal Mounted Police in Canada. We work closely together up that way.

I know Senator Levin and others in the Senate are working with us on the Regional Community Policing Institute. You helped fund that in the past. There is one at Michigan State University. As you know, it is used for training and education of law enforcement agencies to try to accelerate the growth and initiative of new community police training and dissemination of information, and I would ask you to give that serious consideration.

One more if I can, another Native American, Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Police Detention Facility. This is way in the western end of the Upper Peninsula. Even though it is on Native American ground, the tribe owns it, they built it. They paid about \$1.5 million. It is used by Michigan State Police, used by the County of Gogebic. That is way on the western end of the Upper Peninsula. They built it and they have basically no money to operate it even though each agency tries to kick in a few bucks. They are asking for \$545,000 to really operate it. They did the bricks and mortar, but they are struggling to keep it operational.

Last but not least, Mr. Chairman, the Byrne Grants. You have always been great. Appropriators have always continued the Byrne Grants, Local Law Enforcement Block Grants, but we always ask for a specific line for National Night Out and you have always been great about giving it to us. Once again we ask that there be an earmark of \$400,000 for National Night Out. Since September 11, it is even more important that our communities come together, and that is one way to do it, in August, the first week in August of every year.

Last but not least, two commerce programs, if I may. The State Maritime Academies, as you know, there are six of them. We usually get about 13 million each for them. Again we request that amount.

More importantly, I would ask for report language to direct that a minimum of 500,000 of that 13 million to be allocated at least to every one of them. There are six of them, and if they all got a minimum of 500,000, if my math is good, that is still about 10 million left. But what we have found in the past is some academies will get a bunch of money, others will get very little, and we could get minimum operating for each academy, State Maritime Academies, of 500,000 just so they can have some level funding, at least a baseline to go from year to year. That is what we would like to see happen, and again with all

our deployment overseas, maritime is a huge concern and we need these young men and women that we can activate to make sure our U.S. Merchant Marine fleet is moving our goods to people throughout the world.

Last but not least, the National Sea Grant program again was authorized at 67.8 million. I would ask that the committee follow the recommendation of the Science and Resources Committee and fund the NOAA program, the National Sea Grant program, at that amount.

With that, Mr. Chairman, thank you for your time and patience and for your past help in these programs, as I pointed out in my testimony.

[The statement of Mr. Stupak follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Mr. Wolf. Thank you. Mr. Serrano.

Mr. Serrano. Just a very brief comment, and I was waiting to see some additional influential Members of the majority party in the room. The White House, like all administrations, is on this crusade to cut out earmarks. I make no excuses for earmarks. I think they are an extension of what we do as Members of Congress. I like them for my district. I like them for my district, I like them nationally. And while it is true appropriators usually ignore what the White House says about earmarks, we could use your help to accept it and stop talking about it as we move on to do what is right.

And thank you for your testimony.

Mr. Stupak. Thank you.

Mr. Wolf. Mr. Allen, Mr. Greenwood and Mr. Weldon. Is this part of the Oceans Caucus?

Mr. Weldon. Yes. Three-fourths of the Oceans Caucus.

Mr. Wolf. Go ahead, whoever. I am going to leave it up to you.

Wednesday, April 10, 2002.

WITNESS

HON. JAMES GREENWOOD, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. Greenwood. Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to testify before your committee today, but before I begin I would like to take a moment to recognize Jean Michel Cousteau, who is President of the Ocean Future Society. Jean Michel is a famed explorer, environmentalist, educator, and film producer, who for more than 4 decades has advocated for the world's oceans. He serves on the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Board of Trustees as well as on the Board of Seakeepers International, Heal the Ocean, Green Cross International, and as an adviser to the Communications Office, Clean Beaches Council and Windows on Our Waters. We thank him for the work he has done and his presence here today. I realize this is a Members day. He was willing to testify but----

Mr. Wolf. If he would like to submit a statement with

yours----

Mr. Greenwood. Right. He is happy just to sit there and be famous.

As you know, I am here with my colleagues here as co-chairs of the House Oceans Caucus, and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight for you two programs, the Coral Reef Activities and Ocean Exploration Programs within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's budget, which I hope will be funded at the level recommended by President.

Coral reefs are some of the most valuable and spectacular places on Earth. Covering at least 1 percent of the planet's surface, coral reefs and their associated mangrove, seagrass and other habitats are the most biologically diverse marine ecosystems. Coral reefs are valuable assets providing food, jobs, protection from storms and billions of dollars in revenue each year to local communities and the national economies.

However, in the United States, as elsewhere around the world, many coral reefs have been destroyed or degraded. Chief culprits include over-exploitation of the living components of coral communities, reef communities and nutrient pollution. The coral reef crisis threatens the survival of these valuable ancient marine ecosystems and the communities and economies that depend upon it.

The President has requested \$28.2 million for coral reef activities, and that will allow for NOAA to continue supporting coral reef activities across our Nation. Specifically, funding will enable NOAA to continue implementing the National Action Plan for Coral Reef Conservation developed by the Coral Reef Task Force. As you know, the Coral Reef Task Force developed the first comprehensive road map for U.S. Action to help conserve coral reefs. This road map identifies 13 major actions that address two fundamental needs to reverse the coral reef crisis: One, increase understanding of our coral reef ecosystems and the natural and human processes that determine their health and viability; and, two, reduce the adverse impacts of human uses of coral reef resources and habitats.

If our children's children are to inherit the ocean's bounty, then we must come to understand and manage them far better than we do today. Like you, I am dedicated to exercising fiscal restraint; however, I remain convinced that any reduced commitment to ocean research and management will mean serious economic and ecological consequences.

I am also requesting your support in providing an increase in funding for the Ocean Exploration Program. Covering more than 70 percent of the surface of the Earth, the oceans' beauty and power have long been a source of awe for many cultures. Although few explorers discover the riches they initially sought, they found not only new lands but also unexpected, bizarre and dazzling deep sea creatures inhabiting an alien world. As exciting and promising as the past oceanic discoveries have been, they pale in comparison to what future explorations may uncover.

The seas possess enormous economic importance. Some resources such as fisheries and minerals are well recognized. Other resources offer promise for the future. For example, marine mineral resources are extensive yet poorly understood. Furthermore, the oceans offer rich untapped potential for

medications. Marine plants and animals possess inestimable biotechnological potential in the treatment of human illness.

The President's request of \$14.2 million for the Ocean Exploration Program will allow NOAA to embark on a national ocean exploration endeavor, build on our initial efforts in ocean research, partner with existing public, private and academic ocean exploration programs and promote undersea ocean exploration and research.

This proposal calls for an aggressive plan of action to build our national understanding of ocean systems and processes and to develop partnerships for sharing information through education, outreach and communication. This exploration effort will focus in five areas: New Ocean Research, Exploring Ocean Acoustics, America's Maritime Heritage, Exploring Ocean Frontiers, and the Census of Marine Life.

Once again I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to testify before you today on the importance of funding various ocean programs. I hope you will consider my testimony along with that of the other co-chairs of the House Oceans Caucus when establishing funding levels for NOAA's ocean programs.

[The statement of Mr. Greenwood follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Mr. Wolf. Thank you. I appreciate your testimony.

Mr. Allen.

Wednesday, April 10, 2002.

WITNESS

HON. THOMAS ALLEN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MAINE

Mr. Allen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, both you and Mr. Serrano. I have submitted a letter outlining the priorities for Maine.

Mr. Wolf. That will be in the record. I don't believe we have that in the record.

Mr. Allen. If you don't, we will be sure you get it.

Mr. Allen. With my co-chairs I want to talk primarily about funding today for oceans research. Maine, the district I represent is a district that relies heavily on marine resources but they are important not just to coastal areas, not just to the island in which Mr. Serrano was born, but really for the entire country, and I think for that reason it is really very important that the necessary funding is provided to create the infrastructure and form the research that will increase and improve our ability to better understand, utilize and protect our marine environment.

In order for NOAA to be able to respond to these and other challenges, I want to mention a few different NOAA programs. For my part, I want to explain the benefits that will be realized through funding dedicated to ocean observing programs and the National Sea Grant College Program.

NOAA has been charged with managing our marine environment, and yet the ocean observation data that is necessary to make management decisions is often not readily available. We have a model up in Maine called GOMOOS, the Gulf of Maine Observation Observing System, which is now performing a series of data collection efforts, and we think in many ways that is a model for ocean observing systems around the country.

The ocean observations that can be made will allow scientists to generate the data that will help us understand the short and long-term trends that are occurring in the world's oceans and atmosphere, and that data is useful not just to scientists but also to fishermen and all those who are earning a living from the oceans. But this data will lead to improved weather and climate forecasts, improved natural resources management and a better understanding of the sources and impacts of marine pollution.

So we are asking that you support NOAA's budget request for ocean observing systems that will allow NOAA to work toward the establishment of a national ocean observing system that can accurately document climate scale changes and ocean heat, carbon, and sea level changes, directly supporting the President's U.S. Climate Change Research Initiative.

We also support NOAA's request to develop a Coral Reef Watch Program. Mr. Greenwood has been talking about that. That initiative is consistent with the objectives for an integrated ocean observing system and would strengthen NOAA's position as the world leader in operational environmental monitoring and early warnings.

I also wanted to say something about the Sea Grant Program. The National Sea Grant College Program, transferring that program to NSF as is proposed in the President's budget could result in the abolition of the Sea Grant Office, termination of Federal support for the existing Sea Grant college program network and deterioration of the nature and purpose of the Sea Grant Program. We now have in this country 30 university-based Sea Grant programs that engage scientists, engineers, educators, communicators and students from over 300 participating academic institutions, and for almost 35 years now the Sea Grant has proven its value to taxpayers as a program that supports rigorous high quality competitive research that is directly responsive to the needs and the concerns of our citizens. But for Sea Grant to be successful, it does require a location in the Federal Government that encourages partnerships among academia, government, industry and the public that allows for combined use of research, education, and outreach, and that focuses on education, the economy and coastal environment.

Sea Grant focuses on applied research and is able to tailor its research programs to respond to local, State and regional needs and priorities. If we move Sea Grant to NSF, I think that it will create the risk that these integrated, vital and effective services will be diminished or lost altogether. It could also result in the loss of matching funds that have been so effective in building regional, State and local partnerships.

Finally, a Sea Grant Program based in NSF but distributed among several divisions would seriously undermine the value of

the Sea Grant national network. So we are urging the subcommittee to support the funding for the National SeaGrant College Program within NOAA at its fiscal year 2003 authorized level.

In closing, I want to thank you for being here and holding this hearing, and I hope you will consider this testimony as you evaluate this part of the budget for which you have responsibility.

[The statement of Mr. Allen follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Mr. Wolf. Thank you very much. I agree with you on the shift. To put it in the National Science Foundation and take it away from NOAA just doesn't make any sense. I think they did it for budgetary reasons. My sense is that there are not many people for it. I can't speak for the rest of the committee obviously, but I do agree.

Mr. Weldon.

Wednesday, April 10, 2002.

WITNESS

HON. CURT WELDON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. Weldon. Thank you, Mr. Wolf and Mr. Serrano, for the honor to come forward. I am going to submit my statement for the record and talk to you about some concerns I have.

Mr. Wolf. Your full statement will appear in the record.

Mr. Weldon. It was Dr. Sylvia Earle, who is one of the most well known marine biologists and oceanographers in the country, said that when she was chief scientist for NOAA a few years ago, we were spending more money on funding the waste disposal system for the Space Station than we were for undersea research in our budget in America. I am a strong supporter of our space program, and as a senior member of the Science Committee I support that, but our budget for ocean research and ocean issues is a disaster.

Last year you did us right. You increased the funding for NOAA and you are to be commended for a good job. You responded to the call we made. We have been trying over the past 5 to 10 years, since way back when I was a ranking member on the Oceanography Subcommittee of the old Merchant Marine Committee, to raise the visibility of an international oceans agenda, and in that regard we made progress. We helped a former Energy Secretary and former CNO of the Navy organize the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education. Admiral Jim Watkins headed that group up, just recently retired. That brings together for the first time all the oceanographic research institutions in America.

In fact, they are in town today. I spoke to them this morning as they lobbied the Hill for the funding that is necessary to complete their programs. Jim Watkins is now the new chairman of the presidentially appointed Oceans Commission, which was mandated by the Congress to come up with a

comprehensive oceans agenda, and we in the Congress have organized the Oceans Caucus. We now have over 60 members in both parties.

Mr. Wolf. Is that new?

Mr. Weldon. It is new, the last 2 years. And our goal is to raise the visibility of an oceans agenda.

Mr. Chairman, we have made progress and I used my position on the Armed Services Committee to assist us. The Navy in fact has been the largest funder of ocean activity in the Federal Government. That is unbelievable that it has been the U.S. Navy, partly because of our defensive needs and because of our efforts in the Office of Naval Research, and in that capacity we have used those Navy dollars to do unbelievable things.

Our first concrete interactions with a new Russia was working with the Russian Navy to help them understand the problems caused by the illegal dumping of nuclear contamination, nuclear reactors in the oceans. Through our efforts we stopped that. The Russians back in 1993 and 1994 not only admitted they have been dumping their reactor overboard in the waters off their coast but they stopped the practice.

We have opened the door for further military cooperation. We are now helping with Navy dollars to allow them to do more in terms of controlling, storing and eventually disposing of their spent nuclear fuel. Right now we are involved in a \$25 million program developed by the Advisory Council on Protecting the Seas to help the Russians develop their own environmental plan of action to clean up the ocean and maritime environment. Four million of that hopefully will come from the U.S. Taxpayers. I am looking to the Department of Energy through our carbon reduction program to fund that in this fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, we have taken great strides to fund the oceans and try to increase it because it builds bridges for us to other countries. So it is not just about the issues that we are talking about today, like the degradation of coral reefs or the land-based sources of pollution or the overfishing that is occurring. It is also about the oceans becoming a bridge to help us establish contacts with other nations who are our former adversaries or our would be adversaries. We are doing a lot of that type of work now with China, and we are attempting to reach out in a delegation I will lead next month to North Korea, offering to work with them to open some doors on some marine problems they have, that we begin a dialogue that hopefully can help bring some stable discussions between the North Korean leaders and us.

So the oceans agenda is an extremely important one. As I chaired the Research and Development Subcommittee for Defense for 6 years, I focused on the oceans agenda items from the standpoint of the military budget and we put dollars in, and that is continuing today, but what we saw was that there were 14 separate agencies each doing oceans research--EPA, NOAA, State Department, DOD. None of it was coordinated. So I produced legislation back in 1996, which Patrick Kennedy cosponsored, creating the National Oceans Partnership Program. That passed and became law in 1997 and it was the first time we began to network all 14 organizations together, saying you have got to create a comprehensive coordination of ocean research at the Federal level.

Since 1997, that program has seen \$80 million of coordinated Federal research, much of it directed by NOAA even though it is not NOAA dollars, allowing us to work with \$80 million of matching funds to do basic research on the oceans.

So we are making good progress, but the most important thing here is that NOAA must continue its credibility. NOAA must be the leader. NOAA is our national oceanographic agency, not the U.S. Navy. NOAA must play that key role and we will continue on the Armed Services Committee, on the committees overseeing the other Federal agencies to make sure they are collaborating, but NOAA must be in that leadership role and that is why this subcommittee is so critically important. You made a solid start last year. Your funding levels were very much on the mark. We just ask you as you consider this year's NOAA budget to look at the impact you can have far beyond NOAA and far beyond this subcommittee because the money you put in will leverage across the board and those other 13 Federal agencies in other appropriation committees to do more ocean research that can never be done by just one agency with a tough balancing act you have to do with this particular appropriation bill.

The second issue I want to help you focus on today is the issue of land-based sources of pollution. It is a difficult program. It is not easily attacked. NOAA is beginning to address that along with EPA, and your funding support in that area can also continue to allow us to address that program both domestically and around the world.

I think this year and next year can truly become the year of the oceans. We have the Oceans Caucus, we have the Oceans Commission chaired by Admiral Watkins. We have the down payment you all made in terms of increasing NOAA's support last year. What we are asking for you to do is to help us continue that effort. We in our other capacities from the Armed Services standpoint, now that I chair the Procurement Committee, I will make sure that we are doing our part to max the dollars you put in and provide additional support to allow NOAA to meet the kind of challenges that we have for the oceans in the 21st century so that we never have Sylvia Earle have to talk about more money for waste disposal systems for the Space Station than what we spend collectively on the entire undersea research of our ocean ecosystem.

[The statement of Mr. Weldon follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Mr. Wolf. Well, thank you, Curt. I share those concerns. I think the Administration has a good person as the new head of NOAA, and we all will attempt to do what we can.

When was the last International Conference on Oceans?

Mr. Weldon. We just had a session that we sponsored with the Arab----

Mr. Wolf. International, bringing all the different nations together.

Mr. Weldon. We had one here in 1998 which Gore and Gingrich addressed. There are two different international groups. There is the Advisory Council on Protecting Seas, which represents 35

nations, and I am involved with that, and then there is the Global Legislators for Balanced Environments and we meet regularly in different locations. So there are periodic meetings held each year. They are not always here in the U.S., and Jim is involved with Global also and we try to coordinate our agenda with the agenda of other ocean bordering nations.

Mr. Greenwood. Mr. Chairman, the legislation that I sponsored that we all work for is the Exploration of the Seas Act, and that was passed last year. What that does is it has the National Academy of Sciences doing a study on how the nations of the world could collaborate financially as well as scientifically on exploration and understanding of the oceans the way we have on the International Space Station.

So that study is being conducted now and in fact I think it is on May the 13th I will be speaking at a convention of worldwide leaders on oceans. Mr. Cousteau will be there as well. And they are going to put together this study so we can really begin to leverage the U.S. Dollars by joining some of them with the French dollars and the Japanese dollars.

Mr. Wolf. What other nations, Jim, are doing a good job?

Mr. Weldon. Japan, number one.

Mr. Greenwood. Japan. France is certainly----

Mr. Wolf. Is that because of the fisheries?

Mr. Weldon. Their dollars spent, it is up in the billions.

Mr. Wolf. Is that because it is an island nation?

Mr. Weldon. There is also an economic benefit to exploring the oceans that we haven't pursued in America.

Mr. Wolf. Japan and what other countries?

Mr. Greenwood. Certainly France has been the leader. I think they are the biggest names.

Mr. Allen. I might add there are countries in Africa which you would not consider leaders in this effort are getting on board. ACOGS, which both Curt and I are involved, is doing a project and there are a number of African nations which are just beginning to develop projects involving their coastal and marine areas having to do with pollution or something else.

Mr. Wolf. What country is that?

Mr. Allen. I can't remember which----

Mr. Greenwood. The sub-Saharan African nations. One of them, for instance, is Kenya. I did some scuba diving off the coast of Kenya----

Mr. Wolf. In Mombasa?

Mr. Greenwood. Yes. And the reefs there were badly damaged by warm weather current that came through and bleached something like 90 percent of the reefs in that area. So they are acutely aware that they have some difficulties there and they are also acutely aware that Africa has great tourist potential that has not yet fully evolved and making sure that their coastal areas are clean and the water is clean.

Mr. Weldon. Mr. Chairman, one other point I would like to make is oceans agenda is also a security agenda. One of the things that Admiral Watkins identified as former CNO of the Navy is that by establishing an international ocean sensing system we can predict and understand climatic change both through phenomena like El Nino and La Nina so that we can understand when a famine might occur in, say, Africa or when a series of major downpours might occur that would cause serious

flooding because that result and action caused by the environment oftentimes lead to conflict over available resources, whether it be water or food. So if you could have a mechanism in place based on the changes which are largely directly related to the oceans, you can in effect predict and understand when those changes will occur, which then if you take action proactively you can prevent conflicts from occurring, you can prevent famines, floods. You can prevent the kinds of things that cause nation states to go against each other. So.

In effect what you are doing by establishing both research and this kind of proactive effort is you are helping to stabilize the world so it becomes a security issue, and that is the angle I use on the military side to put more DOD dollars into this. But again NOAA has got to provide that leadership. That is their primary function and I agree with you the new Director is an outstanding individual. His own past background, he recently chaired the consortium that Admiral Watkins held.

Mr. Wolf. Mr. Serrano.

Mr. Serrano. Just a brief comment. One of the more dramatic issues in my community lately is the issue of the bombing of the Island of Vieques. Right now that is a very touchy subject for all of us. It is a national defense, it is a colonial status versus a noncolonial status. But if President Bush can keep his plan in place, which is the agreement that President Clinton made with Puerto Rico, maybe we will stop bombing in 2003, and when that happens that issue then becomes more something for you folks and for me to join you because we are talking about 63 years of bombing and what it has done to the coral reef, the live munition that is still there, the fact that some of the beaches have been destroyed, and we are big supporters and certainly I am a big supporter of NOAA and the work they do, including a lot of wonderful work they do in the inner city where there are no oceans to be seen at times.

So I look forward to supporting you in every way I can and hope that when May 2003 comes around that we can move on to the new life that awaits Vieques and what it should have been before the bombing started.

Mr. Weldon. Both Tom and I are on the Armed Services Committee. So we will be involved with that issue for a long time.

Mr. Wolf. Thank you very much.

Mr. Roemer, Mr. Gilchrest and Mr. Terry. You all can sit together or however you want to work it.

Mr. Roemer. Are you coming up with me?

Mr. Gilchrest. Behind you all the way.

Mr. Wolf. Welcome.

Wednesday, April 10, 2002.

WITNESS

HON. TIM ROEMER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF INDIANA

Mr. Roemer. Mr. Chairman, I will be brief so I ask unanimous consent to----

Mr. Wolf. Without objection, all of your statements will

appear in the record.

Mr. Roemer. First of all, I want to just say that this will be my last testimony before this committee and I want to thank this committee for their fairness and wisdom and their equitable distribution of resources to many good, worthy projects throughout the United States, and I have always enjoyed my friendship with the both of you. Thank you for serving Congress the way you do.

I am here, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Serrano, to thank the subcommittee but also request a couple of new funding projects. My first request is for \$500,000 for the City of South Bend to purchase a local automatic fingerprint identification system. We have a rising crime rate in South Bend. This will assist our police department in apprehending criminals. You provided money a few years ago to help us with new computer systems in our cars. This backs us up, and this system will help us increase the rate of criminal apprehension and prosecution and it saves police officers a lot of time. So that will be my first request.

Secondly, I would request \$1.3 million for the University of Notre Dame to develop and support a comprehensive school and community-based violence prevention program. We have built the center in a part of South Bend which is continuing to see high crime rates, high dropout rates, low economic development. This center, which was funded in part by the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, is now going forward to try to combine and collaborate with the South Bend Police Department, the prosecutor's office, the trauma unit at Memorial Hospital and area communities schools.

One of the things they are doing is trying to set up a computer system which will integrate the learning of the local schools with the kids that come into this learning center after school and do things to try to improve their academic progress and their scores on tests. It is not just a place where you go for enjoyment and basketball. They are having a small business incubator there, a program for education, for after-school activities that directly links up with kids' performance. I think that is the kind of after school unit that we need, and I am requesting funding for that program.

Thirdly, \$2 million for the University of Notre Dame to conduct comprehensive environmental risk assessment for new industrial solvents that pose a threat to the aquatic ecosystems in the Great Lakes.

Fourthly, \$15 million for the Friends of the St. Joe Juvenile Justice Center to construct a new facility to house an accelerated learning academy. Again this is an education component, Mr. Chairman. The academy's goal is to provide a rigorous educational environment while also offering assistance to the student's family for guidance and to establish a healthy home environment.

We find in the South Bend schools, oftentimes for good reason, kids are kicked out of school and incarcerated in juvenile justice programs. They then fall a year or a year and a half behind in their school and they drop out of school subsequently most times. This academy would be a curriculum and a school within the juvenile justice program that would require these students to attend school while they are incarcerated,

therefore they don't drop behind, they don't drop out of school when they return to school a year, a year and a half later as tenth graders or eleventh graders and they stay up on their school work, and we find this is a great way to keep kids from going to prison later on.

So those four requests. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, again I really thank you for your support.

[The statement of Mr. Roemer follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Mr. Wolf. Thank you, Tim. I have no questions. Mr. Serrano.

Mr. Roemer. Thank you very much.

Mr. Wolf. Your full statement will appear in the record.

Mr. Gilchrest.

Wednesday, April 10, 2002.

WITNESS

HON. WAYNE T. GILCHREST, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MARYLAND

Mr. Gilchrest. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a brief note in the previous panel, in discussion about the international organizations, Africa works with the National Fishery Service via the State Department and our embassies in a number of countries over there with the AID program to help develop fisheries management plans and marine protected plans, and there are a number of countries along the coast. Probably the best, surprisingly enough, plan is from South Africa. So they are fully engaged in that issue.

I would like to submit my statement for the record.

Mr. Wolf. Without objection, your full statement will appear.

Mr. Gilchrest. And I would like to ask the chairman and Mr. Serrano to think of a clock, an 18th century windup clock that was put together by the clock maker that was very complex that allowed us to view the passing of time without much concern about the mechanics of that machine. Until very recently, the last couple of hundred years or so, the population has increased to the point where humans and their activity has had an enormous impact on the mechanics of the operation of that clock, a degrading impact, and we see human activity in the fisheries, in the quality of water, in our estuaries, in innumerable ways around the planet where we have degraded the environment in many areas of the United States. Whole sections of Africa have been decimated, not to mention a country like Haiti, and that dramatic effect has an effect on the water that passes through those countries that eventually gets into the ocean and disrupts the natural processes of the marine ecosystem, which then has a dramatic effect on humans because we depend on that for our life support system.

So we have reached the point, I think, in our stage of development where we understand the mechanics of that clock and we have enough people to get in there and not only not let it

wind down but get in and fix some of the parts that have been made fragile or broken, even to the point basically where the hands in the front are about ready to fall off and we can't now find the key to stick into the back of that clock to wind it up. And the people who know how to fix it are sort of fragmented. So we as a government pull these people together, combine the resources for them to do their job, and National Marine Fisheries Service is one of those clock makers. National Ocean Service is involved in that.

I would like to refer to the marine protected areas which we are asking for \$5 million as a glass in front of the clock that protects the hands, and then land conservation goes a long way to reduce the kind of degradation and pollution we see in our coastal areas, which is basically fundamentally responsible for the spawning areas for the life of the sea.

So it is not a great deal of money and I know that everybody's budget is being crimped, but as the previous panel testified, the small amount of dollars that goes into these programs compared to the dollars that go to an array of other programs is pretty dramatic, and it is dramatically small. So I would ask that the request that we have for National Marine Fisheries Service to deal with a whole range of things, National Ocean Service and those added programs in marine protected areas are basically where the wildlife refuge is on the land that provides to protect the area, for the habitat to be restored, and one example of that is the Gulf of Maine, where for a number of reasons they put fishing off limits and they made it a protected area. The scallops they used to get out of there a few years ago had become the size of a dime. I don't know if you go to restaurants and you order scallops and you take a look at the size, most of them in recent years have been pretty small and in 3 years time the size of the scallops grew 14 times and that whole ecosystem began to be restored and the fisheries became much more healthy.

So we are asking that each one of the programs requested today be fully funded. I think it will go a long way toward accomplishing our understanding of how that clock works, putting our ecosystem back together in a compound that we don't often think about, which is basically on the planet Earth, as far as we know in the entire universe in the form that it is unique and has water, so we understand that life comes from and is sustained by the oceans, we will go a long way toward doing things the previous panel said, protecting that for future generations.

[The statement of Mr. Gilchrest follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Mr. Wolf. Thank you.

Mr. Gilchrest. Thank you, and I was going to bring some oysters but I didn't get home last night, so if I come in tomorrow----

Mr. Serrano. I commented to staff people that I checked Ethics. That is allowed, you know.

Mr. Gilchrest. Okay.

Mr. Wolf. How are the oysters now? I was down asking some

people on the oyster take compared to what it was. What is it now on the Eastern Shore?

Mr. Gilchrest. In 1890, between the 1880s and the early part of the previous century, you could get about 15 million bushels of oysters out of the Chesapeake Bay. Last year we got 120,000.

Mr. Wolf. Say that again.

Mr. Gilchrest. A hundred years ago you got 15 million bushels and last year we got 120,000 bushels. We have a program in the Chesapeake Bay which is part of our request, pursuing--
--

Mr. Wolf. I know. Excuse me. I didn't want to interrupt. Go ahead.

Mr. Gilchrest. What all of these various funding sources will do will help pool together information sources so that we can approach our marine resources from an ecosystem approach; in other words, understand how all the mechanisms in the clock work together to make the clock run. There is a myriad of things from phytoplankton, which is a microscopic piece of ledge vegetation, right on up to the whales, and there is a food web that is put together and the only way to describe that is to understand the physics of the system of the ocean is to understand the mechanics of the creation that went into making the ocean, and the Chesapeake Bay program has a pilot project to do an ecosystem approach to the Chesapeake Bay that can then be replicated a number of other places.

Mr. Wolf. In Virginia they are using some programs where they have oysters where they actually have them in containers that are not actually--a different approach, almost like they do commercial catfish?

Mr. Gilchrest. Maryland and Virginia have come together to collaborate on this oyster restoration project where a few people will have oyster spat--that is the tiny microscopic baby oyster. That is grown to a certain size and that is taken all over Virginia and Maryland to put in probably what you saw, in little baskets, and then those little baskets are taken to build up oyster reefs and the oyster reef is what filters out and makes the water quality.

Mr. Hoyer. Mr. Chairman, I know I am not a witness here, but on the oysters, an interesting thing, at the turn of the century, as Wayne said, there were sufficient oysters to process the water on the Chesapeake Bay in 72 hours. That means there were enough oysters. Oysters are sort of a little sewage treatment plant. They clean up the water. In 3 days, 72 hours, all the water in the Bay would be processed by the 15 million--by actually more oysters in the Bay. And of course one of the problems the Bay has now is that one of the challenges to the Bay is you don't have God's natural water treatment plants there. But in 3 days they would go through all the water.

Mr. Wolf. Three of the rivers in my district, the Potomac, the Shenandoah and the Rappahannock, the Rappahannock actually begins in my congressional district and of course it spreads out to what looks like a large bay. How successful are they now in bringing the Bay back and protecting the Bay? Could they ever get it to that point again? I noticed all the development along the Bay.

Mr. Gilchrest. The Bay has died. The Bay is not improving. In some places the Bay improves with a single species like

rockfish because they didn't let anybody catch them for a long time. Then we catch too many menhaden and then the rockfish don't eat that as their main source, they eat the crab. Then the sewage treatment plants would have degradation from development which oversilts and then the grass doesn't grow and the crabs don't have a place to hide and then the Bay is not filtered out by the oysters and the menhaden are down. So it is a whole complex----

Mr. Wolf. How far back could we get?

Mr. Gilchrest. We will never go back to the way the Bay used to be, but we can reach a point where we can create a system where the Bay will be sustained, the water quality will be good and it will be restored to a point where generations to come will be able to use the Bay in a productive manner. But it has to be this ecosystem approach, which means you have to put sanctuaries, places where people can't fish, and there also has to be places where people can't use motorboats.

Motorboats in shallow water tear up the grass. The grass is the start of the food chain. When the grass isn't there, microorganisms aren't there, the small fish aren't there, and it goes right up to the top.

So the information to restore the Bay is there, but much of that information has to get to the planning and zoning committee, the county commissioners. We need places where there are no development on the land. We need better management practices for agriculture. We need places in the Bay proper where you can't take a jet ski or even a small motorboat. That is about a third of the Bay, the Bay itself and the tidal basins that abut the Bay. A third of it has to be off limits to that kind of human activity because of its disruption.

Mr. Wolf. Anything we can do to help. Mr. Serrano, do you have any questions? You can tell Mr. Gilchrest is a teacher.

Mr. Serrano. Yes, and I really appreciate that you have given us so much information and I am always amazed at just how much we have turned our back on the ocean and the bays. It makes no sense. In the Bronx we spent 25 years trying to bring back a river and, to the credit of people who live there, they say, the river? The Bronx River. Finally, fish will come back to the Bronx River and people are using it and kids are building things around it, and this committee has been very helpful and other folks have been very helpful but it took 25 years and this whole community set out to save this river, and it is coming back.

Mr. Gilchrest. And it is also a point of a person or community's values and respect for all of creation. Thank you.

Mr. Wolf. Thank you. Mr. Terry.

Wednesday, April 10, 2002.

WITNESS

HON. LEE TERRY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEBRASKA

Mr. Terry. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Mr. Serrano. I will submit my full statement for the record and it is full of information, pathos and emotion, and I will just summarize in my oral testimony.

I come here to your committee today on behalf of probably most barrio kids in the Cities of Los Angeles; Portsmouth,

Rhode Island; Newark, New Jersey; Phoenix, asking for \$1.5 million to Girls and Boys Town USA to establish their satellite homes in those cities.

And let me give you a little bit of history. First of all, I am a guy from Omaha, Nebraska that is asking for money for Cities of Newark and Phoenix and Los Angeles but I am a real fan of Girls and Boys Town. Of course they are headquartered in my district of Omaha. It started in 1917 by an Irish immigrant by the name of Father Flanagan, who was made famous in a movie----

Mr. Hoyer. That was founded by Bing Crosby. You can't fool me.

Mr. Terry. Whatever works. He did an almost adequate job of representing Father Flanagan. The home started in 1917 for orphaned boys who through history has progressed to helping the kids that have the most severe problems in our society, those that have been abandoned, those that have wound up in the juvenile court system. For the most part these are kids that are ordered by the court system into the Boys Town system.

And why do the courts appoint so many kids into this system? Well, it works. It is built on a family model where they have physical homes with house parents that are the sponsors, that both have degrees in counseling and they have a rather rigid structure that has proven to be successful, the structure of caring people in the home that teach household skills, social skills, community skills and education. These are young children that have come from the streets involved in drugs, in violence, in crime and come out years later hopefully with a degree, wearing pants, suit coats and ties.

It has been a model that has been proven successful for kids that the traditional system has failed because it handles them in a little different approach. It is the niche approach that has been so successful for the toughest children in our society, those who are the toughest to serve in our societies. Because of their success, and now they are under the new tutelage and leadership of Father Val Peters, who wants to take it into the cities that have the most kids that need to be served in this capacity. So we are taking the Boys Town model across the Nation.

Last year this committee was generous enough for the Louisiana project and Kansas project and I think in Newark as well. You gave them \$500,000. I think they are proving themselves to be successful, and they are asking for \$1.5 million for this year.

[The statement of Mr. Terry follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Mr. Wolf. Thank you. I appreciate your testimony. Your full testimony will appear in the record.

Mr. Terry. I appreciate that.

Mr. Wolf. Mr. Sherman--Mr. Hoyer.

Wednesday, April 10, 2002.

WITNESS

HON. STENY HOYER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MARYLAND

Mr. Hoyer. Mr. Chairman, can I submit--Mr. Ridge is meeting with the Treasury Committee at 4:00. I will submit my statement. Obviously one of the things I was going to say is you have been on the Helsinki Commission and know about as much about it as I do.

[The statement of Mr. Hoyer follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Mr. Wolf. Sure. You are in good shape.

Mr. Hoyer. Thank you.

Mr. Wolf. Mr. Sherman.

Wednesday, April 10, 2002.

WITNESS

HON. BRAD SHERMAN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. Sherman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Serrano. I hope my full statement will be made part of the record.

Mr. Wolf. It will.

Mr. Sherman. I bring you three projects, the first of which is not only the most important but the least expensive. I am seeking \$100,000 from the Technology Opportunities Program of the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications Information Administration, NTIA, or such other funding sources the subcommittee may choose for a project, Los Angeles Freenet, which will add to what L.A. Freenet is already doing to provide free Internet service to disadvantaged students and also to cooperate with the program of New Directions for Youth, which is another nonprofit organization. New Directions for Youth is already providing computer training to disadvantaged families, and then when these families graduate the program and know far more about computers than I do and how to operate them, they then will be eligible for free Internet connection.

We have all heard about the digital divide, and this is an outstanding model program for dealing with that digital divide. I cannot think of a better investment to help people, particularly disadvantaged people, to help students, than to get them on the Internet from their homes. So we are requesting this \$100,000 for LA Free Net. If for some reason earmark is impossible, I would request that the subcommittee include report language directing NTIA to favorably consider and strongly look at the LA Free Net grant application.

The next two projects I have are projects that benefit not only my own district but all of the city of Los Angeles. The first deals with an alternative to the well-known 911. So many people are dialing 911 that it sometimes takes half a minute, a minute, or sometimes several minutes to get through when there is a genuine emergency.

One of the things about 911 is, it is catchy. People know it, and when people need to reach the police, they call it. This would create a second, alternative system, 311, that people could call when they need to reach the police or other emergency officials, but not on an emergency basis, so that they would know that they were not interfering with some life-or-death situation. We would need \$2 million from the COPS technology account for staff and for developing this program.

The third is a request also from the COPS Technology Account, and this is for the data tracking system, a commuter information system, for the Community Court Pilot Program. This is a pilot program to divert from the regular courts those accused of what are called quality-of-life crimes--public drinking, vandalism, or misdemeanor graffiti. These are important crimes, they have the effect of depressing a neighborhood and yet they are not obviously as important as those crimes of violence against people.

So these offenders are being diverted to the Community Court Pilot Program, but what is necessary is funding for computer tracking so that when these individuals go before this community court their rap sheet, pretrial information, et cetera, is available to the judge.

So I hope that you would consider these three programs, and especially the first one I identified, the \$100,000 for free Internet.

Mr. Wolf. Thank you very much. We will. And we thank you for your testimony.

Mr. Serrano.

Mr. Serrano. No. Thank you very much.

[The statement of Mr. Sherman follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Wednesday, April 10, 2002.

WITNESS

HON. JULIA CARSON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF INDIANA

Mr. Wolf. Congresswoman Julia Carson.

Ms. Carson. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Wolf. Your full statement will appear in the record as if read.

Ms. Carson. Yes, sir, I have the copies for the committee, and thank you very much; and Ranking Member Serrano. I really appreciate this opportunity to share with you some of the efforts in my district, in Indianapolis.

My first request is for \$800,000 for a security call center and a video surveillance center. This is for senior citizens, basically, where when they make the emergency call to the call center, it automatically acts as a police video so they can keep their eye on the situation until they are able to respond, et cetera. The statement details it so that you will not have to be bothered with a long diatribe from me.

And the other one is to ask for money for COPS Mobile Data Terminals for the Indianapolis Police Department, the ones that

they use. If they get the terminals upgraded, it allows them to spend approximately 8 additional hours of time on the beat. This would allow the data terminals that they use in their automobiles to be able to transmit a lot of the data so that they will not have to sit there in the car themselves.

The upgrade is going to run to approximately \$2 million, but I was hoping that the subcommittee would be able to provide around \$600,000 of that. We will be able, hopefully, to amass the rest.

Thirdly, let me talk to you about securing the safety of passengers and commerce at our municipal airports, which requires more than screening bags and stationing of National Guardsmen throughout the facility. We already have a lot of that, but we need more to depend on the safety of all these.

We have a university--Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Serrano, the University of Indianapolis, an expert in providing public safety training, the Indianapolis Airport Authority, and the British Airport Authority, a private airport manager, are establishing a public/private partnership to train officials for our major airport in Indianapolis, plus five other regional airports that we have in the State of Indiana. The training would include security audits and consultation, liaison with Federal departments, coordinated training of police, fire and emergency medical services, et cetera.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would request \$150,000 on behalf of the Indianapolis Family Violence Response Center that is going to help victims of domestic violence. It is a collaborative effort between community service delivery providers and public safety agencies. It would serve as a model for communities around the country for an aggressive and comprehensive approach in reducing domestic violence. It is all in the statement in terms of how it would work.

Again, Mr. Chairman, I would extend my heartfelt thanks to you and your committee to allow Members to come before you and to put the beg on the ATM machine.

Mr. Wolf. Thank you very much. We will take your statement and consider your requests.

Ms. Carson. Thank you, sir.

[The statement of Ms. Carson follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Wednesday, April 10, 2002.

WITNESS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF INDIANA

Mr. Wolf. Mr. Visclosky.

Mr. Visclosky. Wish you would have left some for me.

Ms. Carson. He is from Indiana too, but mine is a priority.

Mr. Visclosky has been here a long time. He has got his by now.

Mr. Visclosky. Thank you, Julia.

Mr. Wolf. Your full statement will appear in the record.

Mr. Visclosky. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just add my voice to Ms. Carson's to thank you for allowing Members to

testify before you, because I do realize the imposition on your time.

I also come to you to really thank you from the bottom of my heart, because you and Mr. Serrano and the members of the subcommittee were very generous last year, and in particular in the \$400,000 that was earmarked for a Purdue Technology Center in our district.

Indiana is having an incredible problem as far as keeping our young people in-State after they get a good education. As you know, we are losing jobs in my district because of the collapse in steel employment, and this really has provided a spark and a reason to have hope in the future. It was a godsend, and I really want you to know I appreciate it. Again, your staffs, on both sides, have been good to work with and we will continue to work with you.

Mr. Wolf. Great. Thank you, Pete. We appreciate it, and your full statement will be in the record.

Mr. Visclosky. Thank you.

[The statement of Mr. Visclosky follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Wednesday, April 10, 2002.

WITNESS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Mr. Wolf. Mr. Smith. Your full statement will appear in the record.

Mr. Visclosky. All the money is gone.

Mr. Smith. Oh, geez. I have heard that before.

We do have a lengthy statement and a justification for every dollar.

Mr. Wolf. I completely agree with you.

Seriously, you are welcome to testify. Your full statement will appear in the record, but I know the good work that you and Steny have done, and Senator Campbell and others on this, so----

Mr. Smith. And yourself, religious freedom being one of the key issues at the OSCE. Your law has made a major difference.

Mr. Wolf. So you have my support, without any trouble, but you are welcome.

Mr. Smith. No, no, I will take it when I can get it. Unless you have any questions.

Just one brief thing. We had an extensive hearing on the Roma, who are the most persecuted, sometimes called gypsies, which is almost an ethnic slur, even though it is not. I would rather just call them Roma. But there are between 8 and 10 million throughout Europe, and it is become a worsening situation rather than an improving situation, with some exceptions.

Bulgaria is trying to make some changes, and we hope that the Berlin OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will bring up a----

Mr. Wolf. And when is that?

Mr. Smith. Right around July 4th, the 6th through the 10th.

They will bring up a major resolution on that.

Mr. Wolf. That was the 6th through the 10th?

Mr. Smith. Yes. Because many of our European countries, especially Western Europe, continue to discriminate very severely, egregiously, against this group of people who cut across each country.

They are disenfranchised. They often put them in special schools, and they track them as mentally incompetent, when they are anything but. It almost gets that kind of outcome because they are treated in such a horrible way. So we are making that a major part of our work this year, plus trafficking and religious freedom and all the others.

Mr. Wolf. There was an article about trafficking where your name was mentioned in Sunday's Washington Post. Did you see it?

Mr. Smith. No, I didn't.

Mr. Wolf. It was a good piece.

Is the committee going to look at the conditions with regard to Bulgaria and Romania? Both Bulgaria and Romania are asking to join NATO. Is the committee going to look at that at all?

Mr. Smith. We will be doing assessments--as we often do and always do--on every one of the 54 countries, as they relate to their agreements, and that includes human rights, religious freedom.

Mr. Wolf. Also trafficking?

Mr. Smith. And trafficking.

Mr. Wolf. Whatever you do, you ought to let the administration know, because Romania wants to get in. I have reservations about them, personally.

Mr. Smith. As do I.

Mr. Wolf. With the new leadership.

Mr. Smith. I recently wrote the administration and got other Commissioners to sign it with regards to a wholesale inclusion of some of the other countries that they would like to have included as part of NATO, that every one of them needs to be looked at individually.

Mr. Wolf. Exactly. And this is an opportunity to get them to comply or else. Frankly, I don't think they ought to get in.

Mr. Smith. Absolutely.

Mr. Wolf. Well, thank you for your work.

Mr. Smith. One thing I would say, we are going to make another major push on trafficking at the Berlin meeting.

Mr. Wolf. Oh, really.

Mr. Smith. At every one of these parliamentary assemblies I have offered a resolution. The first one was met with total derision by some of the delegations, including some of our former adversaries, like the Russians, who just downgraded it and said we have no problem, there is no human trafficking occurring here.

I even met with the Speaker of the Duma in a bilateral, and then of course we faced off on the floor; and it was as if it is a solution in search of a problem. But we were able to point out that hundreds of thousands of Russian girls have been trafficked into forced prostitution, many of whom came over here. We since then have gotten our law enacted, the Victims of Violence Protection Act.

And interestingly enough, a number of the countries in the OSCE are on tier 2 and even more on tier 3, which is the worst violators. They have a problem and are doing nothing to stop it.

So we are going to make a major push, again saying, we have changed our law, here is our law. We routinely write all these countries, the Commission staff and I, and talk to the parliamentarians.

For instance, when Kostunica was here to meet with the President, I met with him for about an hour and pointed out that they have to change their law. But in anticipation of their coming here, they cracked down and raided 400 brothels, because trafficking is a major problem in Serbia, in Yugoslavia, and shut many of them down and arrested a number of the criminals. And we have stressed to them now that the other shoe here that has to fall is to treat the women like victims.

Mr. Wolf. Have you visited the center in Bucharest?

Mr. Smith. Yes, I have. I was there when it got up and running, the SECI Center; and it is an example of cooperation with southeastern European countries on using law enforcement, but also treating the women as victims. That is what our law is all about, our new law.

Mr. Wolf. And this will be an issue that you will raise at the Berlin meeting?

Mr. Smith. Yes, sir. And last year, when I raised it in Paris, people were jumping up all over to speak to it. Now we need to see those parliamentarians bring it back to their countries and say we need a new, or we need new policies to concur or comport with our stated concern.

Mr. Wolf. And I think we should transfer this to the Defense Department, so if they do not participate, they ought not get into NATO.

Mr. Smith. It ought to be a criterion in the human rights analysis, because this is human slavery in its worst form. Forced prostitution is rape, and we can stop it, and we could put them out of business if we have the will.

Mr. Wolf. Thank you for your good work. Thanks for your staff.

Mr. Smith. And thank you very much.

[The statement of Mr. Smith follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

Mr. Wolf. We are adjourned.

[Testimony submitted for the record follows:]

[GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]